New video about innovative waterway cleanup in Wilmington debuts on DNREC YouTube Channel

WILMINGTON — A new <u>DNREC YouTube Channel</u> video details an innovative remediation project to remove PCBs from sediment in a ditch that discharges into the Christina River in Wilmington.

This spring, DNREC's Watershed Approach to Toxics Assessment and Restoration (WATAR) Team and its partner University of Maryland, Baltimore County and contractor Brightfields, conducted a full-scale pilot test, using approximately 7 tons of Sedimite pellets inoculated with PCB-degrading microorganisms to isolate and destroy legacy PCB contamination in a one-acre wetland area on A Street in Wilmington. With PCBs as the main cause of fish consumption advisories in the Christina Basin, the goal of the project is to prevent the contaminants from entering the food chain and impacting fish and other aquatic life.

Sedimite was the same product used for the Mirror Lake Remediation and Restoration Project in Dover in 2013, which has resulted in more than 80 percent reduction of PCBs in resident fish tissue in the five years since it was applied. The difference in this application — the first commercial application of bio-amended Sedimite in the country — was the inclusion of the PCB-destroying micro-organisms.

The WATAR Team expects successful results from the innovative pilot project and that the technology may become another tool that can be utilized in cleaning up legacy PCB contamination

in other water bodies in the state.

The video can be found on the DNREC YouTube Channel at $\underline{\text{A-}}$ Street Ditch.

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